

B-3492 - B-3504

1842-1880/1872

143-103 E. Cross St. (South side)/ 124-126 Weber St. (North side)

Baltimore, Md.

Private access

The south side of the 100 block of E. Cross St. is one of the most interesting blocks in the southern section of Federal Hill, containing as it does almost every variety of house type built in the area between the 1840's and the 1880's. At 139-143 E. Cross St., at the eastern end of the block, there is a row of late Victorian style, two story, two bay wide brick houses with shed roofs and bracketed cornices. The houses, which sit on high basements, with basement kitchens, were built just before 1880. To the west, at 137 E. Cross St. there is a similar two story, two bay wide brick house with shed roof, but with no extant roof cornice, built about the same time. 135 and 133 E. Cross St. have been torn down, but at 131 E. Cross there is a two and a half story, two bay wide, late Federal style brick house located next to a pair of similar two and a half story frame houses at 127-129 E. Cross St. The survival of a frame house in this section of the city is quite unusual. All three houses seem to have been built in the 1840's or 1850's. Continuing west, one encounters a pair of two story plus attic, two bay wide brick houses at 123-125 E. Cross St., built about 1850; a late Victorian style, two story, three bay wide brick house with shed roof and bracketed cornice at 121 E. Cross St., an 1880's remodeling of an original 1840's house; and, at 117-119 E. Cross St., a pair of originally two story, two bay wide gable-roofed houses built in the mid 1840's, one of which (117) has since been enlarged and is now three stories in height with a shed roof and bracketed cornice. At 113-115 E. Cross St. there is another pair of two story plus attic brick houses, built in the mid 1840's by John S. Gittings, and at 111 E. Cross St. there is a two story, two bay wide gable-roofed house built by Gittings in the early 1850's. Further west, at 109 E. Cross St. there is yet another two story plus attic house, followed by a pair of two and a half story, two bay wide, late Federal style brick houses at 105-107 E. Cross St., and then another two story plus attic house at 103 E. Cross St. The four latterly described houses were all built in the early 1840's by William Addison, a local house carpenter. At 124-126 Weber St., there is a pair of two story, two bay wide brick houses with shed roofs and bracketed cornices, built in 1872 by Charles and Augustus Weber, leaders of the German community in Baltimore at this time. The houses are the only survivors of an original row of such houses built along the north side of Weber St. at this time.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

127-129 E. Cross St.

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Records Office Room 601

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21202

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

___EXCELLENT
___GOOD
XFAIR

___DETERIORATED
___RUINS
___UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

___UNALTERED
XALTERED

CHECK ONE

XORIGINAL SITE
___MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This pair of two story houses with gable roofs and a single front roof dormer window apiece are extremely unusual in that they are two of the few surviving frame buildings in Federal Hill/ South Baltimore. The original wood clapboarding can be seen along the alley that runs between the two houses, and also on the upper part of the facade of 127 Cross St. 129 Cross St. has been covered with asbestos shingles and the lower part of 127 Cross St. has been covered with a brick veneer. The rear facades of the houses have also been covered with asbestos shingles, asphalt shingles, and tarpaper.

The houses are two stories in height, 15' wide, and occupy lots 51 1/2' deep. Each house is two rooms deep and has a one story high, two bay deep frame addition. The houses are constructed in wooden clapboarding, but this has been covered over except for the second story area of 127 Cross St. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. There is no extant cornice. Each house has a broken pedimented dormer window located on the front gable roof; 127 Cross also has a rear dormer window. Each house has a double rectangular chimney located along both the front and rear roof gables. The chimneys at 127 Cross are located along the west side of the house; those at 129 Cross are located along the east side of the house.

The door and window openings have no extant lintels, but do have wood sills. All of the window openings at 127 Cross are filled with 1/1 double hung sash; the windows at 129 Cross are filled with 2/2 double hung sash. The entire first floor and basement area of 127 Cross has been faced with brick and the basement area of 129 Cross has been stuccoed. Both houses have Mission-style doors set beneath round arched, single light transoms (obviously a later remodeling). The houses sit on high basements, the entrances being reached by six metal steps each. 129 Cross has a tall rectangular basement window opening located beneath the first floor window, and a door leading to the basement located beneath the front door. A flat-roofed alleyway runs between the two houses. 127 Cross has a flush door flanked by side-lights and leading to the basement, located beneath the first floor window, at ground level.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1855-56

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Philip Kirkwood

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

These houses are extremely unusual as representing a quite late use of frame construction in an urban area, and for the fact that as frame structures they have survived at all. In terms of overall form, the houses follow in design the type of late two story, gable-roofed house set on a high basement, such as was built by John T. Grindall in the 1850's on Grindall St. east of William St. These houses, however, also have the steeply pitched roof and dormer window associated with earlier two story, gable-roofed houses built in the 1820's and 1830's.

The houses seem to have been built by Philip Kirkwood, a ship carpenter who lived at 335 E. Hamburg St. Kirkwood bought the 30' wide by 51' deep lot on which the houses stand in 1855 for only \$500, a fact that leads one to believe that the lots were unimproved or had frame structures on them in sad repair.¹ In 1856 Kirkwood sold 127 E. Cross St. to his brother John, a shoemaker, who lived here in the late 1850's and 1860's.²

¹Baltimore City Land Records, Liber ED 76, Folio 451; Baltimore City Directory, 1849-50, 1858-59. It is possible, however, that Kirkwood merely improved the structures already existing, if there were any.

²Ibid., Liber ED 100, Folio 463; B.C.D., 1858-59

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 15' x 51'6" each

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M.E. Hayward / Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Maryland Historical Trust / Struever Bros. & Eccles5/79

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1745 Circle Rd.

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

RuxtonMaryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

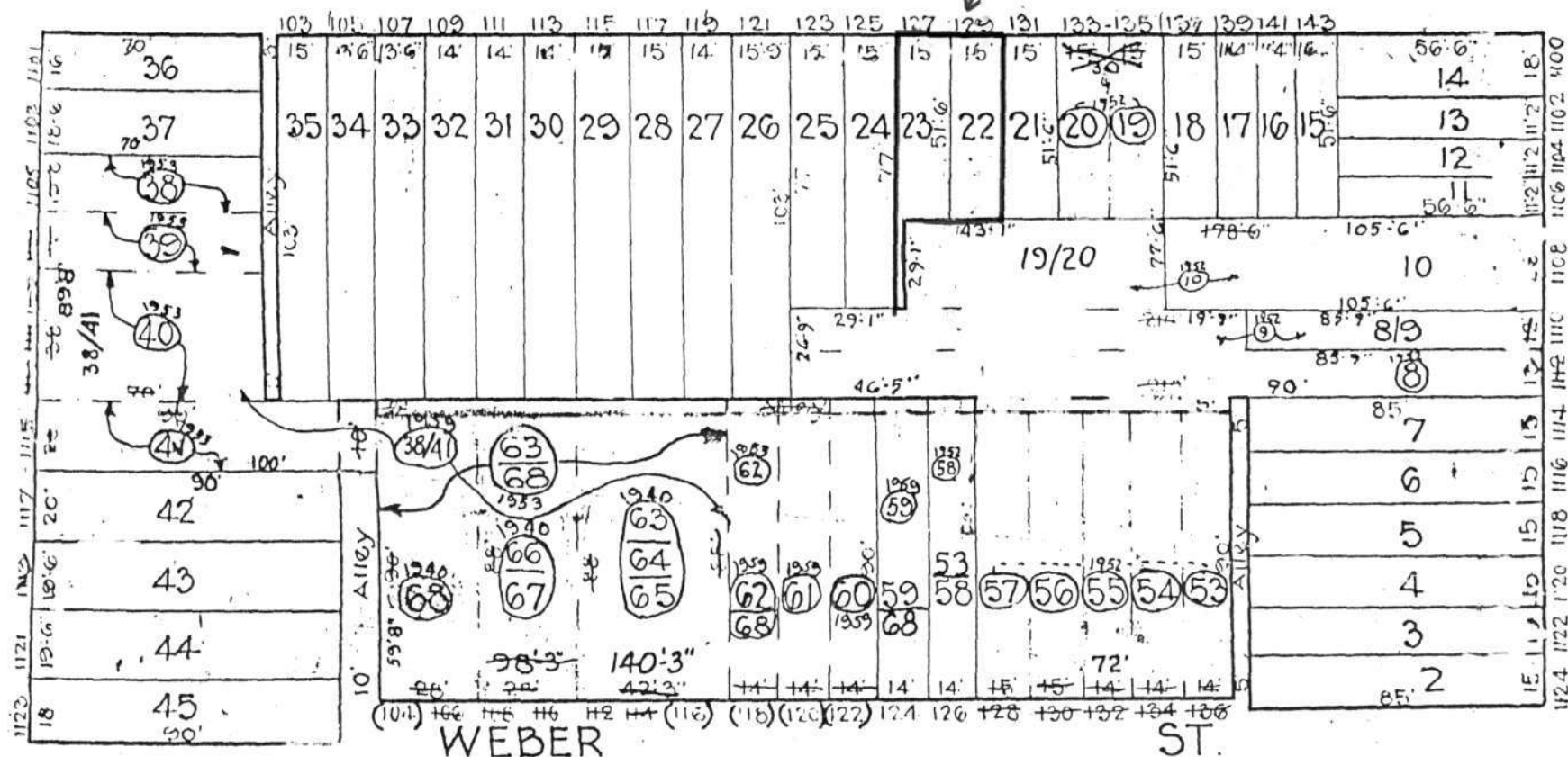
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

E. CROSS

B-3445

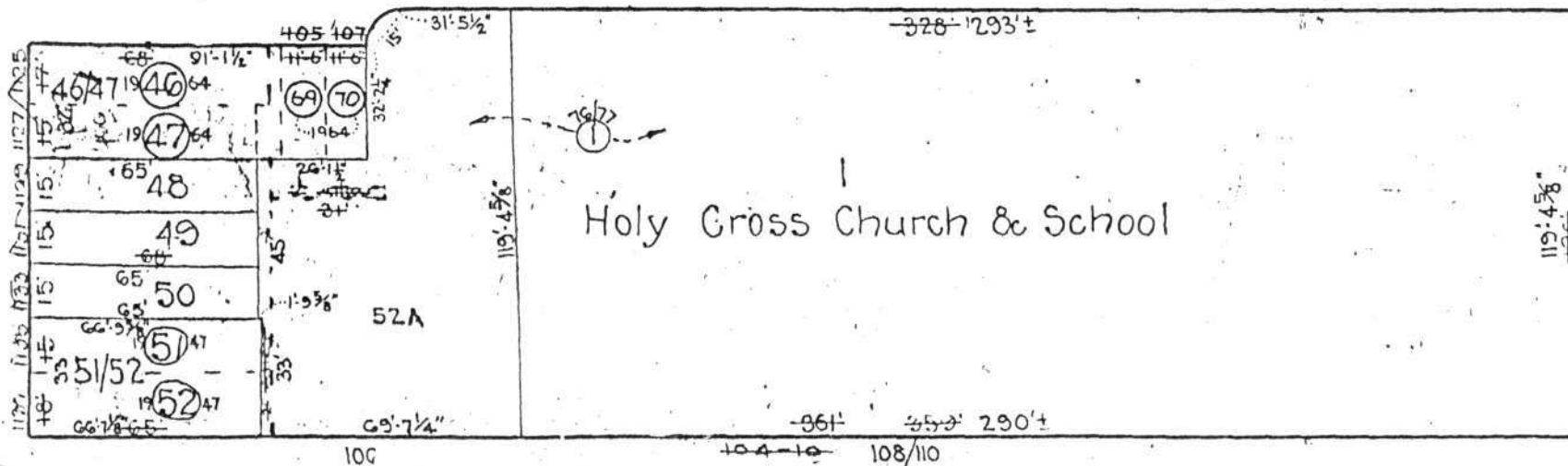
ST.

TS.



ST

LIGHT

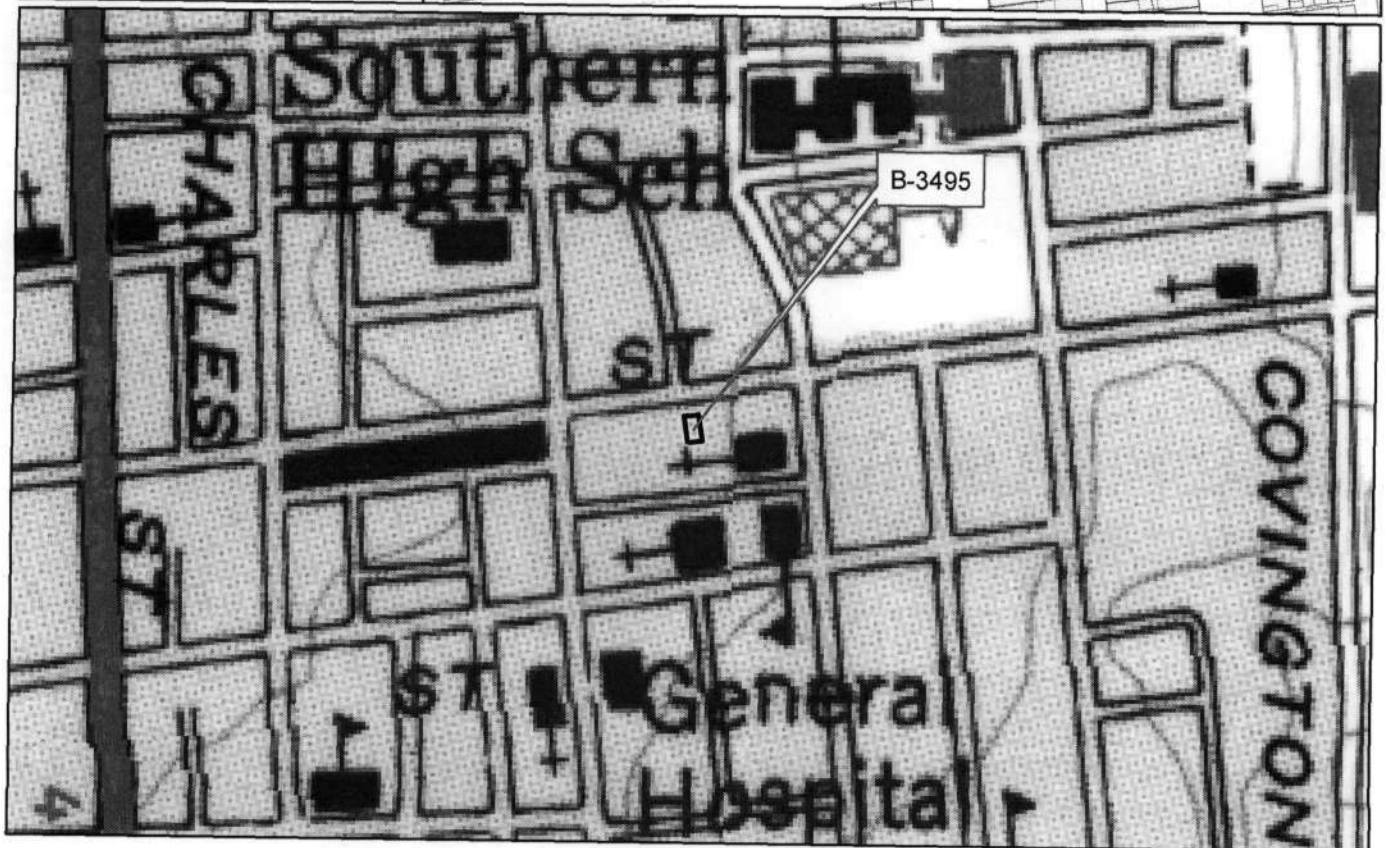
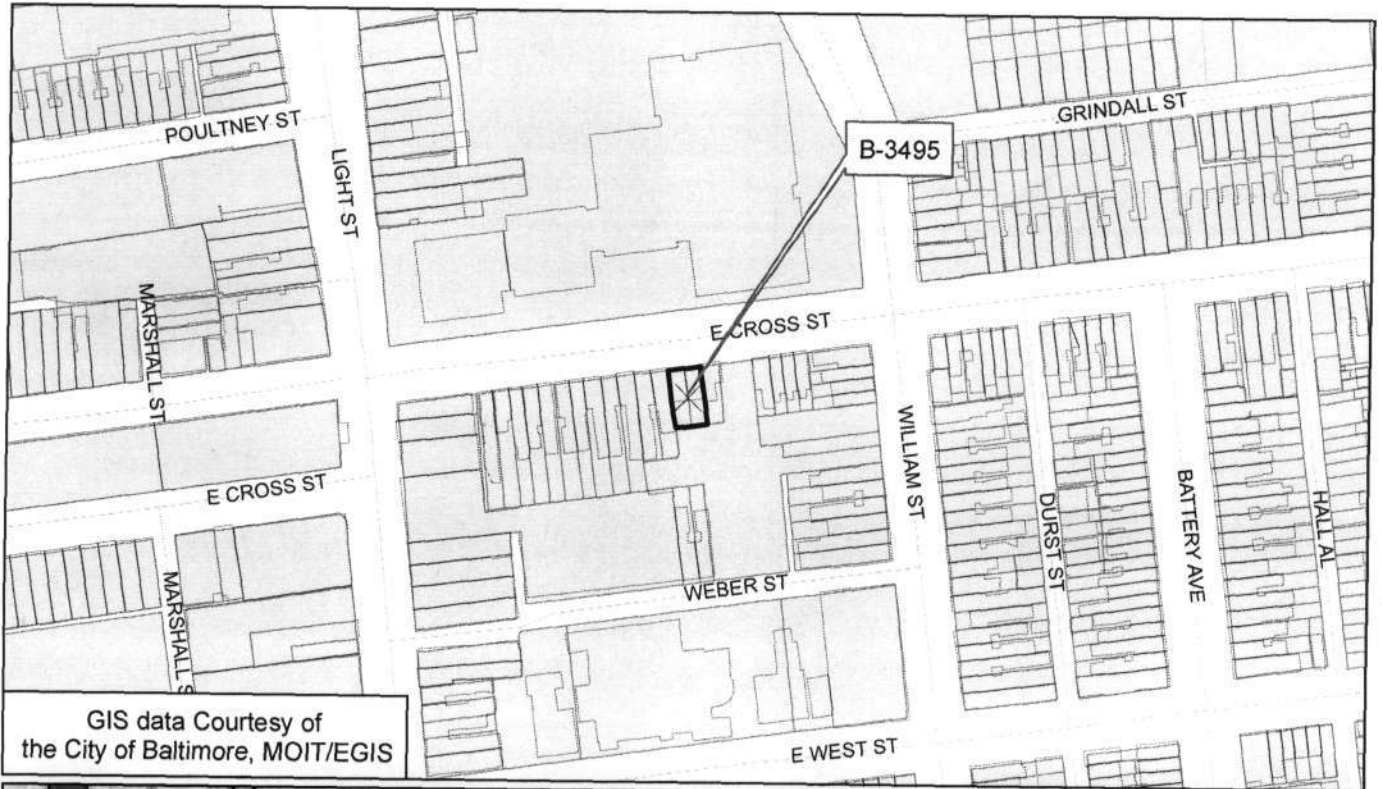


WILLIAM

E. WEST



B-3495
127-129 E. Cross Street
Block 0951 Lots 023-022
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





B-3495

127-129 E. Cross St. —

— M.E.H.

5/79

North elevation